

Stewards of the Environment



Within the next five years, more than 250 million computers will become obsolete, producing nearly 9 billion pounds of e-scrap and posing enormous environmental concerns. Nationwide, more than 400 recyclers have begun the task of managing this waste, but it could take them 50 years to recycle these materials at current rates of recycling. UNICOR wants to be part of the solution.

Responding to the challenge.

In lieu of continued abandonment and destruction, UNICOR's Recycling Business Group provides an environmentally sound way to handle



e-scrap materials in a cost-competitive manner on a nationwide basis.

Since 1994, UNICOR has responded to the challenge with a federal inmate-staffed approach to managing e-scrap. In just ten years, the inmate worker population has grown to include nearly 1,200 highly trained workers. With seven electronics recycling operations across the United States, UNICOR is truly a national program.

Forming Strategic Alliances

Agencies and businesses that team with UNICOR understand the benefits of working with an organization that provides recycling activities at a competitive price, in a timely fashion. UNICOR customers include not only federal, state, and local governments but also public entities, nonprofit organizations, and private-sector businesses. UNICOR's program is labor-intensive, so capital machinery and equipment expenses are minimized, this helps keep costs down. UNICOR has nationwide coverage, which greatly reduces the transportation costs for those in need of e-cycling activities.

Teaming with the Private Sector

In 2002 alone, UNICOR spent more than \$332 million on private-sector purchases, supporting numerous private-sector jobs. UNICOR's commitment to the environment extends to its vendors, who are required to sign no-landfill

UNICOR meets all EPA and OSHA regulations...



Fresh Start

“UNICOR was able to teach me the skills to think and plan a career. I knew I could hold my own and not embarrass myself.”

certifications, follow a restrictive export policy, and agree to site inspections.

Earning Prestigious Recognition

The efforts of the Recycling Business Group were acknowledged in 1999. The recycling centers in Elkton, Ohio, and Marianna, Florida, were the recipients of the prestigious “Closing the Circle Award” from the White House for their electronics recycling activities. The Elkton facility also received a 2003 Department of Justice Energy and Environmental Management Award in the category of waste/pollution prevention for their electronic recycling activities.

Benefiting from a Federal Program that Really Works

- Reduced transportation costs
- Improved e-scrap processes
- Environmental compliance
- Nationwide coverage

Participating IN A GREEN SOLUTION

UNICOR’s unique, full-service recycling program is an integrated part of a national e-scrap solution. UNICOR’s processing methods begin with receiving, testing, and auditing the equipment. Equipment is first assessed to determine whether it can be used for its original purpose. If reuse is not an option, the equipment is then demanufactured for recycling. To ensure that donors are not open to liability, functioning equipment is cleaned and asset tags/property

stickers are removed before the equipment is sold for reuse or donated to local schools.

Turning Waste into a Commodity

Nonfunctional equipment is mined for functional components such as memory, mice, and Ethernet cards before it is demanufactured. Using a method called single-stream recycling, non-functioning equipment is broken down into residual materials, which are segregated and sold to approved reprocessors. These commodities, in turn, are sold to carefully screened buyers who use the recycled material to produce new products.

Pledging TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

UNICOR factories are regulated by the same agencies that regulate commercial e-cycling facilities. These facilities operate in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local EPA regulations. In addition to UNICOR’s strict no-landfill policy of electrical components, the Recycling Business Group complies with OSHA standards and each factory is staffed with a full-time Safety Manager. UNICOR locations are fully permitted, where required, by state EPA regulations.

The Recycling Business Group has written standards that clearly delineate procedures for all of our operations. UNICOR is committed to operational procedures that:

UNICOR supports a restrictive export policy...

- Comply with all laws and regulations
- Demonstrate commitment to pollution prevention
- Are environmentally sound
- Conserve resources
- Are continually improved

Demonstrating Compliance

UNICOR has engaged highly reputable outside agencies to conduct third-party inspections and verify its compliance efforts. UNICOR factories have undergone intensive technical reviews of their ability to perform effective recycling activities, including safety procedures, evacuation procedures, and material handling and disposition. Additionally, environmental and medical tests are provided as necessary to insure the health and safety of all workers.

Ensuring Security and Traceability

UNICOR ensures security and integrity through traceability. All hard drives are cleaned in accordance with Department of Defense high-level security wiping procedures.



UNICOR: Recycling computers and electronics while giving individuals another chance.

Recycling VALUABLE LIVES

UNICOR views employment as a human right. UNICOR's recycling program gives more than 1,200 federal inmates an



opportunity to voluntarily participate in an employment and work program. While developing job skills and earning stipends, these inmates improve their self-worth and prepare for release. Inmates use their earnings to pay victim restitution and court-ordered fines, as well as family and child support.

Teaching Essential Job Skills

The Recycling Business Group provides essential training to its inmate workers. This valuable training includes A+ certification training, and also hazardous materials handling, identification, and segregation. To further ensure safe work practices, all staff attend outside OSHA Compliance and Workplace Safety training.

Benefiting Taxpayers

UNICOR receives no tax dollars to operate. All revenue earned goes back into the Corporation as operating funds. Rather than draining the federal budget, these inmates contribute to a program that benefits not only the environment but also taxpayers. While incarcerated, these inmate workers require fewer correctional officers, present fewer problems, and experience less stress, which improves institutional safety and reduces the cost of incarceration. Upon release, these inmates are ready to enter the workforce prepared with real skills. Inmates who participate in these programs are less likely to commit crimes and return to the prison system, lowering recidivism.

Electronics Recycling

Within the next five years, more than 250 million computers will be obsolete, producing nearly 9 billion pounds of e-scrap and posing enormous environmental concerns. More than 400 organizations have begun the task of managing electronic waste, but it could take them 50 years to recycle these materials at current rates of reclamation...

Stewards of the Environment

UNICOR **Recycling Business Group**

www.unicor.gov ☎ 202 305-3884/3768

UNICOR
Federal Prison Industries, Inc.
Recycling Business Group
U.S. Department of Justice
320 First Street, NW
Washington, DC 20534

For more information contact:

Aaron Aragon
Phone: 202 307-6037
Fax: 202 305-3557
Email: aaragon@central.unicor.gov